

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032347

STADIS//////////

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DEPASSTSEC SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: DSAA LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN

REF: JIDDA 0696

1. I HAVE NOW SPOKEN TO LTG FISH (WHO WAS AWAY FROM WASHINGTON LAST WEEK) ABOUT LETTER WHICH IS QUOTED REFTEL. BECAUSE OF A BREAKDOWN IN USUAL PROCEDURE, WE HAD RECEIVED A COPY OF THAT LETTER ONLY ON THE WORK DAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING RECEIPT OF YOUR TELEGRAM. I EMPHASIZED THAT COMMUNICATIONS ON MATTERS SUCH AS THIS HAD TO BE SPECIFICALLY COORDINATED WITH THIS BUREAU PRIOR TO DESPATCH; IN SOME CASES WE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH YOU PRIOR TO GIVING OUR APPROVAL AND IN SOME WE WOULD WANT TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE. I ALSO ASKED THAT ALL SUCH COMMUNICATIONS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO A MINISTER OF SAG, BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU THROUGH THE NEA BUREAU. I HAVE FISH'S AGREEMENT THAT DSAA WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY IN THE FUTURE.

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2. AS TO WHO SHOULD SIGN SUCH LETTERS, THE PRACTICE HAS BEEN THAT LETTERS ON ESSENTIALLY NON-POLICY MATTERS SHOULD BE SIGNED BY DOD OFFICIALS. LETTER NOW IN QUESTION RELATES PRIMARILY TO INTERNAL DOD PROBLEM OF PROPER FORMS

TO BE USED IN ADMINISTERING CORPS PROGRAMS UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT, AND SEEMS TO FIT IN NON-POLICY CATEGORY. YOU OF COURSE ALWAYS MAY CHOOSE TO SUBMIT SUCH A LETTER TO PRINCE SULTAN UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM YOU OR AN EMBASSY OFFICER. IT IS ANOTHER MATTER WHEN A DEFENSE ISSUE OF A POLICY NATURE IS INVOLVED, AND IN SUCH CASES THE NORMAL CHANNEL IS STATE/EMBASSY/SAG. IN LATTER CASES, AS YOU SUGGEST, SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS ARE APPROPRIATELY SIGNED BY A DEPT OFFICER OR BY YOU.

3. YOU SHOULD KNOW, THAT AS MATTER OF NORMAL ROUTINE, DSAA DOES COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH US ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US. FISH ASSURES ME THIS WILL CONTINUE.

4. WE WILL BE ALERT TO YOUR VERY JUSTIFIED CONCERNS ON THIS SUBJECT. WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENT YOU MAY HAVE ON THE FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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